

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 9, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 14-21 are added. Claims 1-21 are pending, the independent claims being 1, 7, 13 and 18. All pre-existing claims are amended. Reconsideration of the above identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,541 to Kamen et al. ("Kamen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,093 to Frid-Nielsen.

As the Office Action acknowledges, Kamen fails to disclose or suggest at least, ". . . each of the plurality of sensitive areas corresponds to at least one function and is associated with one of a plurality of different cursors providing a visual cue as to the at least one function corresponding to each of the plurality of sensitive areas. . ."

In addition, Kamen fails to disclose the following aspect of claim 1 as amended, ". . . medical image display field . . . spatially displaying a medical image in said field; and, while said image continues to be displayed, controlling a mouse . . . said at least one function comprising image processing on said spatially displayed medical image, said controlling positioning said mouse within an area from among said areas to cause said display and allow said activation and control."

The amendment of claim 1 finds support at least in [0001]-[0006], [0023].

Kamen discloses changing the appearance of a cursor to indicate entry into a linked screen region 4. Kamen does not disclose or suggest that the linked region, or its invocation, have anything to do with image processing in the image region 6. In fact, at

the time the linked region is entered, whatever may currently be displayed image region 6 has no connection to that linked region.

Frid-Nielsen discloses moving an input device toward an object displayed on-screen. As the user nears the object, the cursor changes appearance to indicate image processing capabilities of the input device with respect to the object the user is nearing.

It would not have been obvious to modify Kamen, in view of Frid-Nielsen to disclose, suggest or feature, ". . . medical image display field . . . spatially displaying a medical image in said field; and, while said image continues to be displayed, controlling a mouse . . . said at least one function comprising image processing on said spatially displayed medical image, said controlling positioning said mouse within an area from among said areas to cause said display and allow said activation and control."

For at least this reason, claim 1 as amended is not rendered obvious by the applied references.

Claim 7 is a device claim amended analogously, and is likewise deemed to distinguish patentably over the applied references.

Claims 3-5, 9-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamen in view of Frid-Nielsen and U.S. Patent No. 6,084,598 to Chekerylla.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 depend from base claims 1 and 7, respectively. Claim 13 is a software claim based on method claim 1. Chekerylla relates to modifying graphic images, but cannot make up for the deficiencies in the other references.

Claims 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamen in view of Frid-Nielsen and U.S. Patent No. 6,301,512 to Motzer.

Claims 2 and 8 depend from base claims 1 and 7, respectively. Motzer relates to color processing, but cannot compensate for the shortcomings of the other references.

Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamen in view of Frid-Nielsen and U.S. Patent No. 5,963,203 to Goldberg et al. ("Goldberg").

Claims 6 and 12 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. Goldberg relates to sequences of images, but cannot make up for the shortcomings of the other references.

New claim 14 finds support at least in [0024].

New claim 18 recites, ". . . said performing of said corresponding function occurring on said spatially displayed medical image which is located in said field and, in relation to said area, in a direction opposite to said direction toward said area, said corresponding function comprising image processing on said spatially displayed medical image."

Claim 18 is deemed to distinguish patentably over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

New claims 15 and 18 find support at least in [0024], [0257].

New claims 16, 17 and 21 find support at least in [0045].

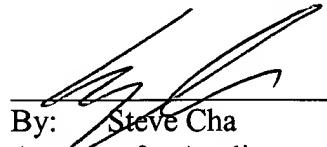
New claims 19 and 20 find support at least in [0001]-[0006], [0023].

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

A check for \$200.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for adding one, additional independent claim in excess of three total.

Respectfully submitted,

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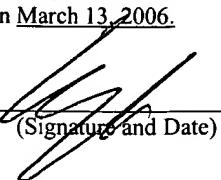
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